

8/31/03

A large part of the reason for having Amateur Radio is now emergency communications. I am the Emergency Coordinator for Lamar County Georgia, and technical director of local Emergency Management amateur radio operations.

Our group does **not** support RM-10785 for the following reason:

RM-10785 would diminish the pool of operators skilled or proficient in CW (Morse) operation. CW remains a very valuable mode in emergencies or under poor conditions. It does not require unreliable and bulky support equipment like computers. CW uses less power for a given amount of information exchange at slow baud rates than other modes like PSK, and in actual practice has comparable range for a given power. This still makes CW a valuable asset.

There are other ways more appropriate to allow access than total abandonment of element 1. We feel RM-10781 is a more appropriate proposal.

As for non-emergency requirements, CW activity remains very high. Statistically, there is **no merit** to the argument based on rumors most amateurs do not operate CW. The results of a recent ARRL poll are at:

<http://www.arrl.org/survey.php3?pollnr=176>

This poll indicates the following amateur activity:

No CW at all is only 32.6%
Less than 25% CW is 17.1%
26 to 100% CW is 50.2%

Comparing those who operate CW more than 75% of the time to those who operate no CW, the CW operators are 35.4% compared to 32.6% with no CW operation.

It makes little sense to totally remove element 1 when CW activity remains at high levels. Element 1 should remain.

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